

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 18 of page 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Another example is U.S. Patent No. 2,632,661 to Cristofv, which shows a pinless joint using slots. It shows in Fig.3 an element 26 ~~[[can]]~~ which appears to be a pin or structure having a pin function.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The first component 20 includes a handle portion 30, an intermediate portion 26, and a beak element 22. The intermediate portion 26 has a generally flat upper surface, and has two extending elements ~~semicircular processes~~ 32 and 34. As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the intermediate portion 26 also has two groove portions 31 and 36, as indicated generally by dashed outlines in Fig. 2 and shown in side view in Fig. 3. The first component has an upper shoulder portion 24, and carries a stop element 28 on the handle portion 30. The handle portion 50 likewise carries a stop element 48. The stop elements 28 and 48 can be omitted.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 of page 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The second component 40 includes a handle portion 50, an intermediate portion 46, and a beak element 42. The intermediate

portion 46 has a generally flat upper surface, and has two extending elements ~~semicircular processes~~ 52 and 54. The second component 40 is substantially identical to the first component 20, and therefore its reverse side to that shown in Fig. 1 can be considered as being shown in Fig. 2. Therefore, the following description of the first component 20 is applicable to the second component 40 as well. The intermediate portion 46 additionally has two groove portions similar to groove portions 31 and 36 described hereinabove.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 21 of page 7 (and continuing through line 3 of page 8), with the following rewritten paragraph:

The two extending elements ~~semicircular processes~~ 32 and 34 are substantially planar and flat on their upper and lower surfaces, and in an assembled position with the second component 40 the two extending elements ~~semicircular processes~~ 32 and 34 are engaged within grooves of the second component 40 which correspond to the groove portions 31 and 36 shown with respect to the first component 20 shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 9 of page 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view of the single element 20

of the sterilizable forceps 100 as viewed from the right side in Fig. 2. In this view, the groove portions 31 and 36 are shown in side view. The opposed flat surfaces of the extending element ~~semicircular process~~ 34 are clearly seen in this view. The beak element 22 is inwardly concave, although other beak shapes are also contemplated as being within the scope of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 19 of page 8 (and continuing through line 3 of page 9), with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 4 is a top elevational view of the sterilizable forceps 100 of Fig. 1, shown in an opened position in which manual separation of the components thereof is possible. In this view, the forceps 100 is opened far wider than when it is in actual usage, and the parts are separable because the extending elements ~~semicircular processes~~ 32 and 34 are no longer engaged within the corresponding groove portions of the second component 40. As discussed hereinabove, those corresponding groove portions of the second component 40 are substantially identical to the groove portions 31 and 36 of the first component 20 which are as shown in Fig. 3.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 9 (and continuing through line 1 of page 10), with the following

rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 6 is an end elevational view taken along line 6-6 of Fig. 1, showing an end view of the sterilizable forceps 100 of Fig. 1 in a closed position. In this view, the generally flat shapes of opposite surfaces of the intermediate portions 26 and 46 are seen. Also, uppermost shoulder portions 24 and 44 are shown of the intermediate portions 26 and 46, seen in end elevational view. The interrelationship of the extending elements ~~semicircular processes~~ 32 and 34 and the extending elements ~~semicircular processes~~ 52 and 54 are also shown in this view, wherein the respective extending elements ~~semicircular processes~~ project outwardly. Adjacent ones of the extending elements ~~semicircular processes~~ are offset slightly from the horizontal centerline of this figure, so as to be side-by-side.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 21 (and continuing through line 4 of page 12), with the following rewritten paragraph:

The first member 210 includes a flat portion 218, and a pair of extending elements ~~processes~~ 220 and 222. The extending elements ~~processes~~ 220 and 222 assist in formation of a hinge in the sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps 299 shown in Fig. 18, similarly to the manner in which the hinge is formed in the embodiment shown in Figs. 1-8. The first member

210 also includes a curved portion 243 and a flat portion 224.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The second member 260 includes a flat portion 272, and a pair of extending elements ~~processes~~ 281 and 283. The extending elements ~~processes~~ 281 and 283 assist in formation of a hinge in the sterilizable lower mandibular tooth extraction forceps 299 shown in Fig. 18, similarly to the manner in which the hinge is formed in the embodiment shown in Figs. 1-8. The second member 260 also includes a flat portion 266 and a flat hinge surface portion 272, as well as an overlying portion 277 defining a first groove portion 276, and an overlying portion 271 defining a second groove portion 270.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 16 is a side elevational view of the second member 260 shown in Fig. 15. Here, the first groove portion 276 is shown clearly. The second member 260 includes a curved portion 282, and the edge of the extending element ~~process~~ 281 is also shown clearly.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 17 is a rear elevational view of the second member 260 shown in Fig. 15. In this view, the rear surface 285 of the hinge portion is shown, as are the extending elements ~~processes~~ 281 and 283.